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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Military Information from RathenowEVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 18 to 23 October 1953

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DATE PREPARED 13 November 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At 7:30 p.m. on 18 October 1953, 11 x 160-mm mortars, 1 field kitchen and 1 jeep were loaded on a train of 30 flatcars and 9 boxcars, including 8 boxcars occupied by troops, at the Rathenow main railroad station. The train left toward east at about 10 a.m. The tracks of the vehicles came from the direction of Stettin.

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2. Troop trains unloaded at the Rathenow main railroad station on 19 October included:

At 6 p.m., a train of 30 flatcars and 10 boxcars carrying 7 M-31 rocket launchers,

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and about 180 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. During the unloading, 2 officers, went to the Nordbahnhof. The detained materiel left for the Kraftfahrer Kaserne.

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At 8 p.m. a train carrying 7 M-31 rocket launchers, 28 trucks, 1 field kitchen and about 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia; the detained materiel left for the Kraftfahrer Kaserne.

At 8:15 p.m., a train of 11 boxcars and 55 to 58 flatcars, carrying 9 M-31 rocket launchers, 56 trucks, 1 jeep, 1 sedan, 2 field kitchens and about 300 to 350 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia; the detained materiel left for the Kraftfahrer Kaserne.

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3. On 23 October, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was occupied to capacity. Four buildings of the Infanterie Kaserne were fully lighted and 2 buildings were lighted about 30 percent. Only a few windows were lighted in the Pionier Kaserne and not more than 6 to 8 windows were lighted in the Ziethen Kaserne during the period under review. The latter installation was presumably occupied only by a rear detail. On 21 October, three generals, including the one living in a building on Stalin Allee, were seen in front of the gate. Between 19 and 23 October, trucks with the

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[redacted] were seen entering the installation. The caretaker of the Schuetzenhaus stated on 22 October, that he had to prepare the building for the officer school, which would soon start. On 23 October, [redacted] were seen in front of a shop with leather goods. Soviet troops loaded new suitcases from this shop on the trucks.

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[redacted] comment. The unloading of three shipments of units of the 25th PL Brig, which returned from the fall maneuvers of the Eighth Gds Army, was previously reported [redacted]. The entraining of a shipment of mortars on 18 October was indicated neither in railroad records nor in reports from the posts. [redacted] on the same day, reported that units of the 65th Mort Brigade (US) were detained for the Infanterie Kaserne. [redacted]. The information on a loading on 18 October and the alleged light occupation of the Pionier Kaserne and the Ziethen Kaserne are believed to be incorrect. [redacted] all military installations, except for the Ziethen Kaserne, which had not been mentioned, were occupied to capacity on 19 October. This would also check with information, according to which the elements of the IV Arty Corps returned from the abovementioned exercises prior to 19 October on a total of 14 trains, according to reports on transportation.

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